

AB 2582 Paratransit Use of High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Sponsor: Access Services, Inc.

THE PROBLEM

Highway congestion is increasingly becoming a problem for drivers throughout California, especially in large urban areas. For “paratransit” agencies, which serve the elderly and developmentally disabled, this means compromising the timeliness of their service and the possibility of losing federal funding due to inefficiency.

THE BILL

This legislation will allow paratransit operators to use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes when driving alone.

BACKGROUND

Currently, drivers of mass transit vehicles are allowed to use HOV lanes without the required number of passengers when completing their scheduled route or returning to their storage facilities. Paratransit operators are not allowed to use HOV lanes in the same way. Paratransit vehicles are smaller than traditional 35-40’ buses and serve individuals that are functionally unable to use public, fixed-route transportation. As a result, AB 2582 will allow paratransit operators to maintain high-quality, on-time service for its customers and continue meeting federal guidelines.

With approximately 400 paratransit vehicles in Los Angeles County and 3000 throughout California, the impact of these vehicles on HOV lanes will be minimal. In turn, by removing these vehicles from normal highway lanes, this exemption may result in a reduction of congestion, especially during peak hours and in congested areas such as Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.

If you support this legislation please send letters to:

Assembly Member Judy Chu
State Capitol, Room 5126
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, contact Julio Martinez at julio.martinez@asm.ca.gov.